

The California Assembly has a plan
to help foster youth achieve success.



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More than 4000 youth “age out” of
California’s foster care system each year.
How many will end up incarcerated?

Growing up can be hard.

For young people in
California’s Foster Care
System, it can be
even harder.





Dear Friends:

Many young people who are struggling with homelessness, incarceration and lack of formal education are coming from the same place: California's Foster Care System.

Each year, more than 4,000 youth "age out" of California's foster care system when they turn 18. Many of them have no family to rely on for support and guidance. One in four foster kids becomes incarcerated within two years of leaving foster care. One in five experiences homelessness within a year and a half. Less than half of foster kids graduate from high school and fewer than 3% graduate from college.

AB 12, *California's Fostering Connections to Success Act* will use federal funds and cost savings to extend support to California's foster kids until they turn 21 with virtually no cost to the state.

Helping foster kids succeed will save the state money by putting them on the road to financial independence.

Please support this important effort to ensure every foster youth in California has the tools they need for success.

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The Facts

A new study shows foster kids who receive support to age 21:

- Are three times more likely to enroll in college;
- Are 65% less likely to have been arrested; and
- Are 38% less likely to become pregnant before the age of 20

Applying these findings to California, the study found the state could also save up to \$4 for every \$1 of federal investment in extending support to foster kids until age 21.

Taking Action

AB 12 takes advantage of new federal legislation funding foster care. It has two key provisions:

1) AB 12 changes current law so federal dollars can be used to pay for placing foster kids with relatives; and

2) It invests savings and federal dollars in extending support for foster kids from 18 to 21.

In troubled economic times, when a child is placed in the foster care system, he or she becomes every Californian's responsibility. The Assembly remains committed to creating opportunities to connect foster kids with the support needed to give them better chances for success.

Additional measures introduced in the Assembly to help vulnerable foster youth include:

AB 1324 helps foster youth victims of identity theft fix their credit record so that they can rent an apartment and open utility and bank accounts essential to starting an independent life as an adult.

AB 1402 helps California get federal family connection grants. These grants have a proven record of placing foster kids in the healthy, stable care of relatives and have contributed to decreasing the number of youth in California's foster care system from 120,000 to 65,000 in the past decade.



AB 12 gives foster youth the tools they need for success.



YES!

I support AB 12, California's Fostering Connections to Success Act.



Please keep me updated on foster care issues.

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY & STATE

E-MAIL